

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 13, 2003 LB 99, 330, 726

a local county basis. The people in that area decide whether or not they want to use the tax. They decide how they want to use the money. They appoint their own committees to do it. And to me, this is Americanism at the real level. We're going to have to cut some of the aids to counties this year. So... and this is a tax outside of what we do with our General Fund down here in the Legislature. So I would appreciate your vote on LB 726, to move it on to the next level.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Louden. You've heard the opening on LB 726. Mr. Clerk, is there an amendment?

CLERK: Senator Schimek would move to amend, AM0748. (Legislative Journal page 788.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schimek, you're recognized to open on your AM0748.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you. Mr. President, members, first of all, I support the bill. And secondly, I want to offer to you an amendment which was actually LB 330 when it was heard in committee. And if you look on your gadget, you'll notice that that bill was "IPPed," but the reason it was "IPPed" is because it was incorporated into Senator Hartnett's bill, LB 99, which was sent out to the floor, and which this body heard, oh, probably a couple of weeks ago. And that bill did not advance from General File because there were nine people gone that day and it was two votes short of advancing to General File. So with the permission of Senator Louden and, I think, advice of Senator Hartnett, we went ahead and pulled that part of the bill and are trying to amend it into this bill. Basically, it's a very, very simple amendment. It was brought to me by Lancaster County. And they...currently in statute you can have anywhere from a five- to seven-member visitors development committee. And what Lancaster...oh, and the other thing of it is that you had to have two from the hotel industry on that committee. Well, Lancaster County wanted the ability to have three members on that committee, so that was the basic change we were recommending. At the Government Committee hearing, we heard from the hotel industry, particularly regarding the impact in smaller counties. And their argument was that in smaller